

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include amendments to Fig. 7b and correction of informalities for all drawings.

Fig. 7b has been amended to explicitly show what was implicit before: that the numerals in block 790 should each be followed by a degree sign ("°").

Fig. 7b, as well as all other drawings, have also been corrected to add formalities and remove informalities.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets (26 total)
Annotated Sheet (Fig. 7b)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Before this Amendment, claims 1-20 were present for examination. After entry of this amendment, claims 1-20 remain present for examination. Claims 1, 3, 8, 15 and 18 have been amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Specification Issues

The Office Action objected to the specification because of informalities in the related application data on page 1 and because of various typographical errors. The specification has been amended to overcome the informalities.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to because the degree symbol is missing from Fig. 7b. Submitted herewith are replacement drawings which correct Fig. 7b and formalize the informal drawings submitted with the application.

§ 1.75 Rejections

Claims 3 and 8-17 were objected to for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 3 has been amended to now depend from claim 2. Claims 8 and 15 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 8-12, 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,415,742 to Lee et al. ("Lee"). Lee details a loop-based deterrence system in which an animal is kept within the loop. The loop antenna provides a signal that the animal collar receives when the animal collar is brought too close to the antenna. A stationary transmitter is coupled to the antenna. Furthermore, a portable transmitter used by a human operator to train an animal is also used. This portable transmitter is used to transmit a

selected signal to the stationary transmitter for a selected animal. The stationary transmitter relays the signal to create a signal that fills the entire loop zone so that the animal will receive the training signal regardless of its location anywhere in the loop zone. Thus, Lee is directed entirely to a training system that can be programmed for a selected animal as opposed to Applicants' deterrence system that can be programmed for a selected animal to keep the animal away from a selected location proximate to the transmitter.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the target zone is a zone proximate to the transmitter and one in which the animal should not enter. As noted throughout the specification and shown, for example, in Fig. 1 by dashed lines, a target zone is created proximate to a transmitter. The animal's receiver collar will activate when it enters this zone (as explained further by the specification). In contrast, Lee details a system only in which a trainer activates a loop-based system to correct an animal when the animal is misbehaving. See, for example, Lee at column 6, lines 57-65. Thus, Lee's animal selectable signal is not used to keep an animal out of a particular avoidance zone. Because the animal selectable signal is received by the animal when the animal is located anywhere in the looped area, the animal is not being instructed to keep away from a particular area. Similarly, the animal is not being taught not to come too close to a transmitter. Rather, the signal in Lee emanates from the looped antenna -- thus, any avoidance zone created by the antenna is not entirely proximate to the transmitter.

Claim 8 has been amended similarly to claim 1. Therefore, the remarks that apply to claim 1 also apply to claim 8.

Claim 15 has been amended to emphasize the automated and repeated nature of the individualized signal. As noted above, the Lee reference discusses a generic deterrent signal and an individualized training signal. The individualized training signal is selected by the trainer at the time of use and then transmitted when an animal is misbehaving. It is not transmitted in an automated, repeated manner as specified now by claim 15.

Claim 18 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 15. Therefore, the remarks that apply to claim 15 also apply to claim 18.

The claims dependent upon the rejected independent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons that their respective independent claims are allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

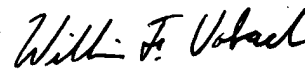
Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Applicants note with appreciation that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, in view of the remarks and clarification of the independent claim language, it is unnecessary at this time to rewrite the claims in independent form since Applicants believe that the independent claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



William F. Vobach
Reg. No. 39,411

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TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
WFV/jln
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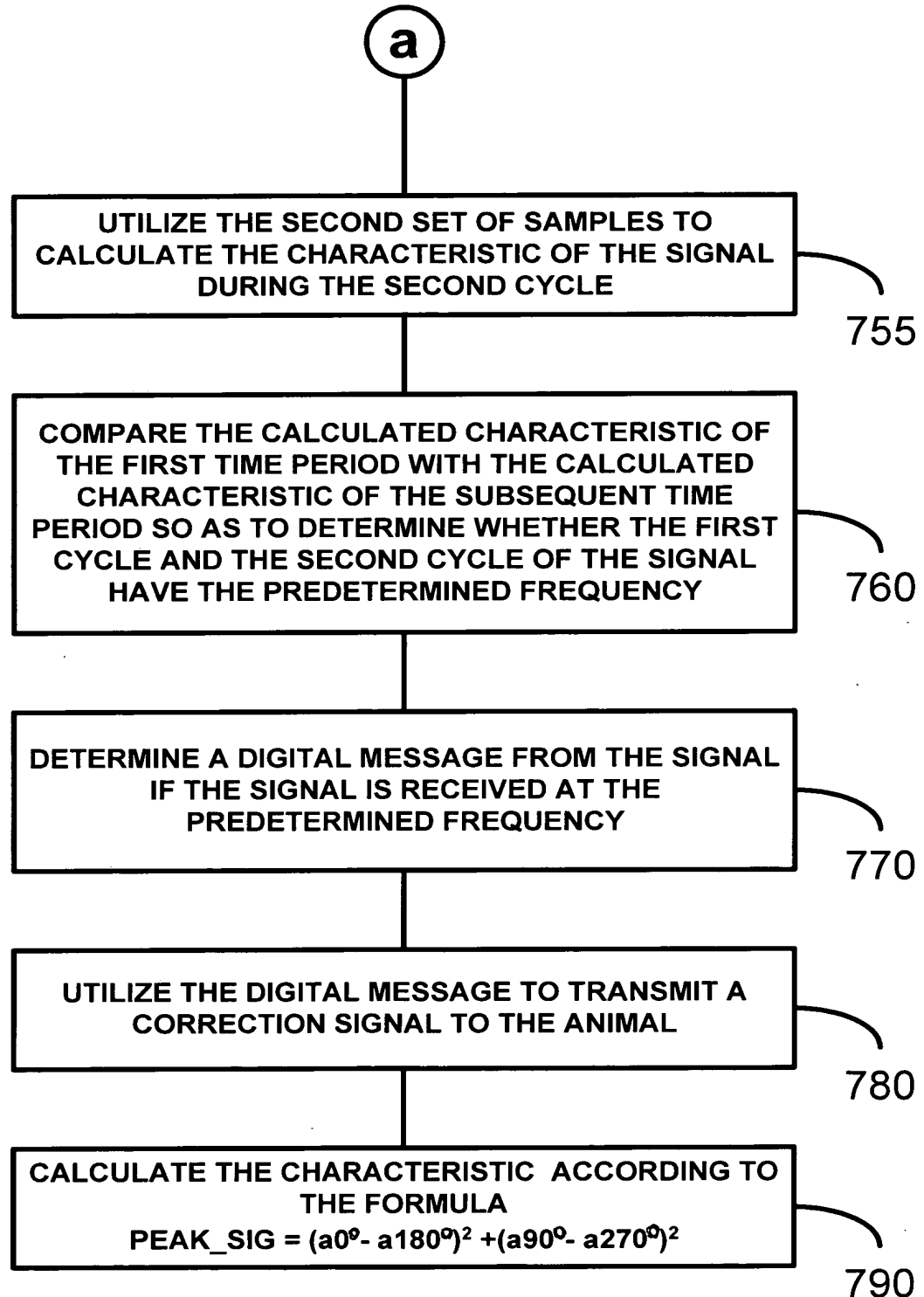


FIG. 7b